

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that comprises a nucleic acid sequence that encodes the protein of claim 1.
3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof having at least 10 nucleotides.
4. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.
5. A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.
6. A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 5.
7. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 consisting of a fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 having at least 10 nucleotides.
8. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 consisting of a fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 having 12-150 nucleotides.
9. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 consisting of a fragment of SEQ ID NO:1 having 15-50 nucleotides.
10. An oligonucleotide molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence of at least 5 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
11. The oligonucleotide molecule of claim 10 wherein said oligonucleotide molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence of 5-50 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

12. The oligonucleotide molecule of claim 10 wherein said oligonucleotide molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence of 10-40 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

13. The oligonucleotide molecule of claim 10 consisting of a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence of at least 10-150 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

14. The oligonucleotide molecule of claim 10 consisting of a nucleotide sequence complementary to a nucleotide sequence of at least 18-28 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

15. An isolated antibody which binds to an epitope on SEQ ID NO:2.

16. The antibody of claim 15 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

17. A method of identifying modulators of Caspase-1 protein protease activity comprising the steps of:

performing a test assay by contacting a Caspase-1 protease protein with a Caspase-1 substrate in the presence of a test compound,

determining the level of processing of said substrate by said protease, and

comparing said level to the level of processing of a Caspase-1 substrate by Caspase-1 protease protein in the absence of said test compound.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein said protein has SEQ ID NO:2.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein said substrate is FKBP46 protein.